

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

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TO: Deans and Directors of Preliminary Multiple and Single Subject Teacher Preparation Programs Implementing the California Teaching Performance Assessment (CalTPA) model

FROM: Lawrence W. Birch, Ed.D., Division Director

DATE: September 23, 2008

RE: Additional Guidance for Program Sponsors Implementing the CalTPA

This letter is another in a series of information updates and guidance to the field for programs implementing the California Teaching Performance Assessment model. This letter will focus on four topics: (a) an update on the development of the fourteen remaining single subject areas and for multiple subjects; (b) further clarifications concerning Lead Assessors; (c) suggested guidelines for the selection of TPA Coordinators; and (d) access to updated CalTPA materials.

Please share the information in this letter with your TPA Coordinator, faculty members, Credential Counselor/Analyst, and others who are working with the CalTPA.

A. Update on the Development of the Subject-Specific Pedagogy Task for Single Subjects

The Commission along with ETS and subject matter experts have been working to develop pilot and field test versions of the Subject-Specific Pedagogy (SSP) task for the remaining fourteen single subject areas. Pilot versions for all remaining single subject areas except for Languages Other Than English are now available. The Commission is looking right now for programs that would like to participate in the pilot testing; please contact Wayne Bacer (wbacer@ctc.ca.gov) *immediately* if your program is interested in taking part. This would be a good way for programs to get an advance look at and provide input to the Commission about these new task versions.

Some programs may be choosing during the 2008-09 year to have all of their single subject candidates participate in the TPA even though candidates in areas other than the four core areas of English, Math, Science, and History/Social Science are not required to be subject to the TPA until Fall 2009. Programs that have chosen to do this are especially urged to participate in the pilot testing of the new SSP tasks in the single subject areas. Programs are strongly urged to use these draft versions of the SSP tasks with their single subject candidates rather than using any prior versions that may have been developed at the local level but which have not been validated and determined to meet the Commission's adopted Assessment Quality standards. Any locally-developed versions of the SSP task for single subject areas that individual programs may currently be using will

need to be replaced as of Fall 2009 once the development of the new single subject SSP tasks has been completed and these tasks are made available to programs using the CalTPA model.

Update on the Development of the Subject-Specific Pedagogy Task for Multiple Subjects

Parallel development of new case studies for the SSP task for multiple subject candidates has also been taking place this summer and fall. A new version of the SSP task for multiple subject candidates is now also available for pilot testing. Programs interested in participating in the pilot of these new SSP multiple subjects case studies should contact Wayne Bacer (wbacer@ctc.ca.gov) *immediately*. Programs choosing to use the new multiple subject pilot version of the SSP task with multiple subject candidates in place of the current, older version of this task may count the candidate's score on the new draft version of the SSP task.

Opportunity for Single Subject Matter Experts in the Development Process

The Commission is currently looking for single subject experts in the areas of Art, Agriculture, Business, Health Science, Home Economics, Industrial and Technology Education, Music, Physical Education, Specialized Biological Science, Specialized Chemistry, Specialized Physics, and Specialized Geosciences who would be willing to participate in the Subject-Specific Pedagogy task benchmarking session (January 12th – 16th) or in the subsequent content validity study (February 3rd and 4th). Any subject matter experts who would be interested in participating in these sessions should also contact Wayne Bacer (wbacer@ctc.ca.gov).

B. Lead Assessors

Programs are reminded that Lead Assessors, like program level assessors, must also maintain a current status of being calibrated.

Only programs may designate an individual to be a Lead Assessor. Individuals may not propose themselves, and they may not sign up for Lead Assessor training unless they are sponsored by a program. Lead Assessors must have calibrated on all four tasks in order to be a Lead Assessor. If a program discontinues sponsorship of a particular Lead Assessor, the program sponsor should notify the Commission (npearce@ctc.ca.gov). Lead Assessors must be sponsored by a teacher preparation program in order to remain in the role of Lead Assessor.

C. Suggested Guidelines for the Selection of TPA Coordinators

Over time, programs may need to select and/or replace TPA Coordinators due to attrition or other reasons. Several programs have asked for suggested guidelines to assist them in identifying appropriate individuals for this role. Here are some suggested guidelines for selecting TPA Coordinators that programs may wish to consider:

A TPA Coordinator should:

- Have a working knowledge of the CalTPA, including foundations and all four tasks
- Be a permanent employee such as a faculty member or classified staff member
- Understand and be able to address candidate and assessor privacy issues

- Be able to use technology to assist in tracking the various elements of the CalTPA, including teacher candidate tasks, scores, and remediation, as well as assessor scoring, double scoring and current calibration
- Be able to maintain records of all phases of CalTPA implementation and integration for future CTC accreditation visits
- Be able to coordinate local CalTPA assessor trainings with the program's Lead Assessor in order to maintain a currently calibrated assessor pool

D. Access to Revised/Updated TPA Materials

The current CalTPA Tasks, permission forms, rubrics and Candidate Handbook have been posted on the following CTC website:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/TPA-program-materials.html>

All current CalTPA assessor training materials and assessor recalibration tasks have been posted on a secure website. Access to this website has been given to CalTPA Coordinators. CalTPA Coordinators are encouraged to work collaboratively with their Lead Assessors in accessing these materials for local training purposes.

The new Subject-Specific Pedagogy pilot tasks have also been posted to the CTC website. Teacher candidates who are participating in the current Subject-Specific Pedagogy pilot study may download the tasks from this site, <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/TPA-SSP-materials.html>.

Contact Information for the CalTPA

Program sponsors may use any of the following contact options:

General email: tpa@ctc.ca.gov

CalTPA Consultant email: ssullivan@ctc.ca.gov; wbacer@ctc.ca.gov

TPA administrator: pjacobson@ctc.ca.gov

Registration for CalTPA training: npearce@ctc.ca.gov